

## Message Text

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65

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EAE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /050 W  
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O R 201123Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2361

INFO DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 23484

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV TH PINT

SUBJECT: PRAPHAT CHARUSATHIAN

REF: A) BANGKOK 23370 B) BANGKOK 23373

SUMMARY: FEW NEW DEVELOPMENTS SINCE AUGUST 19 ANNOUNCEMENT THAT PRAPHAT AGREES TO LEAVE; GENERAL FEELING THAT HE WILL LEAVE WITHIN SEVEN DAYS; STUDENT ACTIVISTS STILL MANEUVERING BUT LITTLE ACTION TOOK PLACE ON AUGUST 20; POLICE APPOINT COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE CHARGES AGAINST PRAPHAT. END SUMMARY.

1. THERE HAVE BEEN FEW DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED AUGUST 19 THAT PRAPHAT AGREED TO LEAVE THAILAND WITHIN SEVEN DAYS (REF B). DATT REPORTS THAT HIGH RANKING SOURCES IN THE THAI MILITARY GENERALLY BELIEVE THAT PRAPHAT DOES INTEND TO LEAVE WITHIN SEVEN DAYS. THEY ALSO FEEL THAT GEN YOT THEPHATSADIN (FIRST ARMY COMMANDER), WHO HAS CUSTODY OF PRAPHAT, REF A) WOULD TURN PRAPHAT  
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OVER TO THE GOVERNMENT IF ORDERED TO DO SO BY ARMY COMMANDER-

IN-CHIEF GEN BUNCHAI BAMRUNGPHONG.

2. MUCH OF THE THAI MILITARY LEADERSHIP REPORTEDLY WILL BE RELIEVED TO SEE PRAPHAT OUT OF THE COUNTRY AND THE MILITARY BACK TO A NORMAL ROUTINE. ONE FACTOR INFLUENCING THEIR THINKING IS THE DESIRE TO AVOID AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE EVENTS OF OCTOBER 1973, IN WHICH SOME PRESENT LEADERS WERE INVOLVED.

3. BANGKOK NEWSPAPERS REPORTED THAT NSCT LEADERS DIS-SATISFIED WITH PRAPHAT'S CONTINUED PRESENCE IN THAILAND MET WITH PRIME MINISTER SENI PRAMOT ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 19 TO DEMAND THE ARREST OF PRAPHAT AND THE INVESTIGATION OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING HIM INTO THE COUNTRY. PREDICTABLY, THE STUDENTS ANNOUNCED THAT SENI'S RESPONSE WAS UNSATISFACTORY, AND THREATENED TO "TAKE ACTION" IF PRAPHAT IS NOT ARRESTED BY AUGUST 21. PRAPHAT'S APPARENT AGREEMENT TO LEAVE THAILAND WITHIN SEVEN DAYS WILL PROBABLY TAKE SOME OF THE STEAM OUT OF THE ANTI-PRAPHAT PROTESTS, HOWEVER, AND A RALLY PLANNED FOR THE AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 20 AT SANAM LUANG FIZZLED. MERCHANTS THERE ARE SETTING OUT THEIR WARES TO CATCH THE EVENING TRADE. MEANWHILE THE BANGKOK WORLD REPORTED ON AUGUST 20 THAT THE THAI LABOR COUNCIL MET AT 5:00 LOCAL TIME TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO SUPPORT THE NSCT AND OTHER ACTIVIST GROUPS CALLING FOR PRAPHAT'S ARREST.

4. POLICE DIRECTOR GENERAL SISUK MAHINTHARATHEP APPOINTED A SIX-MAN POLICE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE ON THE MORNING OF AUGUST 19 TO LOOK INTO CHARGES BROUGHT AGAINST PRAPHAT, FORMER PRIME MINISTER THANOM KITTIKHACHON, AND THANOM'S SON NARONG BY VARIOUS ACTIVISTS (REF B). EMBASSY SOURCES, HOWEVER, REPORT THAT MANY POLICE OFFICERS BELIEVE THAT PRAPHAT WILL BE LEAVING, AND IN VIEW OF THAT, NOT MUCH WILL COME OF THE INVESTIGATION.  
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## Message Attributes

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